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# SIGSPATIAL VIABILITY REVIEW

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**acm**  
**SIGSPATIAL**

## **SIGSPATIAL Chair**

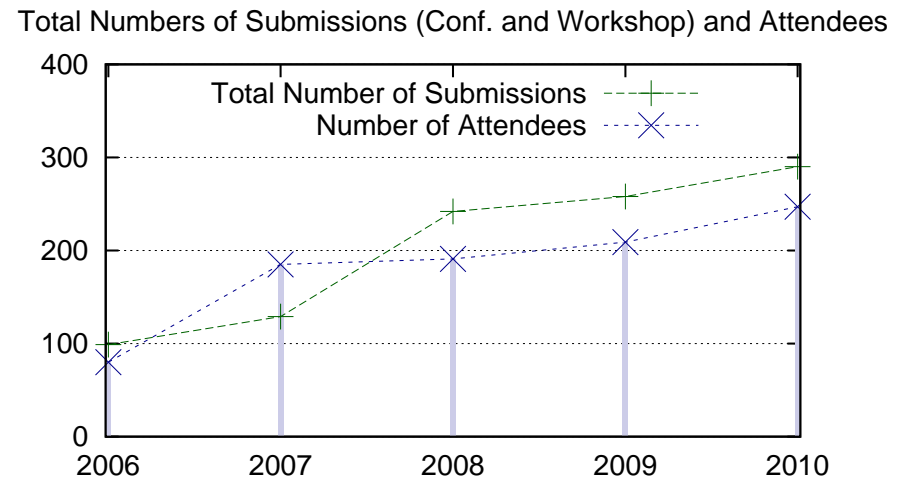
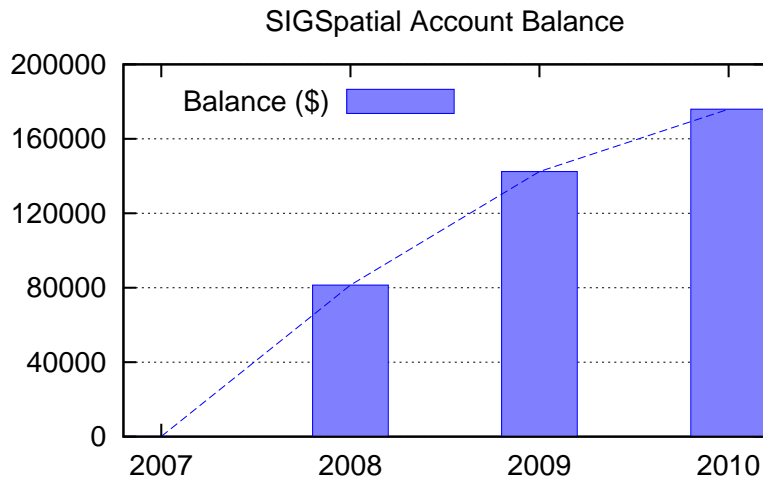
Hanan Samet  
March 2011

## **SIGSPATIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Walid Aref, Vice Chair  
Markus Schneider, Treasurer  
Chang-Tien Lu, Secretary  
Justin Levandoski, Webmaster



# 1. Financial Accomplishments



- Fund Balance of \$170K while SIGSPATIAL only formed in 2008, although run provisionally in 2007 subject to forming a SIG in 2008
- Flagship SIGSPATIAL ACMGIS conference attendance up from 40 in 2006 to 247 in 2010
- 2010: 238 professional, 3 student, and 122 affiliate members
- Total membership: 2008=113, 2009=321, 2010=363
- Actively pursuing sponsor support to keep ACMGIS registration fees modest (\$350 for members and \$250 for students)
- Travel support for Ph.D. students from NSF in 2010
- Travel support for female students from Google in 2010



## 2. Member Benefits and How We Are Meeting Them

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- Flagship ACMGIS conference with papers, posters, demos, and Ph.D dissertation tracks
- Increased number of sponsored workshops to attract more attendees than just authors including SPRINGL08, SPRINGL09, SPRINGL10, CTS09, CTS10, LBSN09, LBSN10, QUEST09, DMG10, IWGS10, HPDGIS10, and ISA10
- In cooperation with GIR10, SISAP09, SISAP10, ASONAM09, ASONAM10 conferences
- Newsletter appears three times a year and on time
- Low membership dues (\$6 for students and \$15 for others)
- Focus on providing value to members and careful attention to controlling costs as members have limited travel budgets
- Help attendees find alternative hotels at affordable rates
- Best Paper, Best Fast Forward Poster Presentation, and Best Poster Presentation Awards at ACMGIS Conference
- 2010 Distinguished Service Award: Robert Laurini and Yan Huang



## 3. Achievements

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- ACMGIS conference logistics policy manual dealing with site selection, menus, scheduling
- ACMGIS conference technical program organization and program committee policy manuals
- Chartering of international chapters primarily in Pacific region (China and Australia with Korea in the planning stages)
- Sound financial footing for SIGSPATIAL
- Increasing attendance despite single track format which is strongly favored by the attendees feedback surveys
- Building a community spirit as evidenced by the strong favorable evaluation of the flagship ACMGIS conference
- Excellent keynote speakers including Maneesh Agrawala, Jack Dangermond, Vint Cerf, Pat Hanrahan, Michael Jones, Gur Kimchi, Franz Leberl, and Sebastian Thrun
- Having a fixed date for the conference each year that does not conflict with other conferences by making it known



## 4. Challenges

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- Keep ACMGIS conference registration fees low by continuing to solicit sponsors
- Keeping ACM Digital Library at bay so as not to attach the ACM affiliation with competing unqualified conferences (e.g., COM.GEO) who end up taking our sponsors away (33% less in 2010) as well as our potential author contributors
- Attracting and retaining members
- Increased publicity
- Increase participation from computer graphics, computational geometry, and computer vision communities in contrast to databases and GIS
- Increase participation from industry
- Increase presence in the ACM Digital Library
- Make ACMGIS the premier conference in the field (20% accept)
- Attract people to serve as officers
- Selecting conference sites which have a local pool of attendees and volunteers as well as a sponsor presence



## 5. Future and New Initiatives

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- Exploring formation of a new ACM Transactions on Spatial Information Systems and Algorithms
- Graduate successful workshops into conferences (e.g., location-based social networks (LBSN) with over 30 attendees in each of the past two years)
- Cooperate with sister professional organizations (UCGIS, GIScience Conference) to cosponsor events while retaining flagship ACMGIS conference
- Try to make a SIGSPATIAL disk with old conferences as well as digitize them for access in the ACM Digital Library
- Creation of awards in the form of prizes such as outstanding research contributions and/or technical innovation and seek funding for them from industry
- Hold the ACMGIS conference outside the US consistent with our goal of low registration and hotel fees taking VAT into account
- Transition name of flagship conference from the *ACMGIS Conference* to the *ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS Conference* and eventually to the *SIGSPATIAL Conference*